

Record of Grants and Research Support Received

★denotes grant received at GMU

Funding Year	Amount	Grant Agency	Role	Title of Grant and Summary
★2025-2026	\$29,958	GMU College of Public Health Pilot Award	PI	<p>(ad numerum CV Grant and Research Support No. 1) Relationship-Centered Care for Formal and Informal Caregivers of Persons Living with Dementia: VR and Multi-modal Approaches</p> <p>This pilot study expands the use of virtual reality (VR) and multi-modal training to support both formal and informal caregivers of persons living with dementia. As PI, I lead the development and evaluation of educational tools designed to enhance empathy, communication, and care quality. The project builds on previous training models for direct care staff and extends them to include family caregivers, addressing gaps in culturally relevant, accessible dementia care education. Results will inform the development of scalable interventions for broader implementation. Based on this pilot grant, two external grants are currently being pursued.</p>
★2024-2025	\$25,000	Virginia Center on Aging Geriatric Training & Education (GTE) Initiative	PI	<p>(CV No. 2) Immersive Training: Enhancing Relationship-Centered Care in Nursing Homes through VR.</p> <p>This project develops and evaluates a multi-modal dementia care training program for direct care workers in under-resourced nursing homes. As PI, I designed an innovative curriculum that combines online modules, in-person sessions, and virtual reality (VR) simulations to promote relationship-centered, culturally responsive care. The training is tailored to meet the linguistic and educational needs of a diverse workforce, aiming to reduce caregiver stress and improve care quality for residents with dementia. This initiative addresses urgent workforce development needs and aligns federal and statewide goals for enhancing geriatric care. Based on our evaluation, a presentation at American Public Health Association has been accepted and a paper is currently being developed.</p>

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★2024-2027	\$10,000	Katherine A. Kendall Grant	PI	<p>(CV No. 3) Fostering Global Innovators in Social Work: A COIL Approach to Social Entrepreneurship</p> <p>This project develops and implements a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) program on social entrepreneurship for social work students in the United States and Malaysia. As PI, I designed a curriculum that emphasizes anti-oppressive and anti-racist frameworks and international case-based learning. The program equips students with skills to address global social challenges through ethical entrepreneurship while fostering cross-cultural collaboration and critical reflection. Program evaluation will be conducted for three years. The initiative was awarded the prestigious Kendall Grant, recognizing its contribution to advancing international and experiential education in social work. A paper on our preliminary findings is currently under review.</p>
★2024	\$78,087	GMU Summer Team Impact Grant	PI	<p>(CV No.4) Investigating the Link between Civic Engagement, Social Participation, Digital Health, and Health Outcomes of Community-based Older Adults of Color</p> <p>This interdisciplinary, community-engaged study examines how civic engagement, social participation, and digital health behaviors are associated with health and well-being among older adults of color residing in the Washington, DC, Maryland, and Virginia area. As PI, I lead a research team that includes faculty members from nursing and education, ten undergraduate students, and five local high school students. The project applies mixed methods and a structural equity lens to generate actionable data that informs both policy and program development to support aging-in-place. This work advances GMU's mission of public impact and student-engaged research. Several presentations have been made on this project and will be presented at the Gerontological Society of America, American Public Health Association, and currently under review for the Society for Social Work Research.</p>
★2023-2024	\$10,000	GMU College of Public Health Startup Fund	PI	(CV No. 5) N/A

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2023-2026	\$21,350.79	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science C Grant	Co-I	<p>(CV No. 6) A Comprehensive Study on Hakuaisha and Osaka Social Work Program (No.23K01950).</p> <p>This historical research traced the origins and development of Hakuaisha, a longstanding orphanage in Osaka. Hakuaisha's historical documents miraculously survived the devastating air raids during World War II and have been claimed as important for its rare insights on the role of this social institution in shaping Japan's civil society and social welfare infrastructure. The study employed archival analysis and historical methods to uncover the intersections of philanthropy, nationalism, and the emergence of organized social care in Japan. My contribution focused on the analysis of foreign aid to Hakuaisha's management and orphans, which were mainly from the United States, and culminated into a book chapter titled, <i>Foreign relief efforts to Hakuaisha Orphanage after World War II: Focusing on CCF</i> (Chen, Rikka Press, 2024, in Japanese).</p>
2020-2022	\$18,731.85	Yokohama City University President's Initiative Research Project	PI	<p>(CV No.7) Multidisciplinary Research for Examining Dementia Care in the Communities.</p> <p>I led a multidisciplinary research initiative to examine community-based approaches to dementia care in Japan. The project integrated perspectives from nursing, social work, urban planning, and gerontology to evaluate existing services and propose innovative models for aging-in-place. This work informed both academic discourse and practical strategies for enhancing dementia-inclusive community development. A series of extension courses were created based on our multidisciplinary research, as well as a conference with international scholars in dementia care from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Sweden, and Canada.</p>
2019-2022	\$38,161.64	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science C Grant	Co-I	<p>(CV No.8) A comprehensive study on Hakuaisha and Osaka Social Work Program. (No. 19K02228)</p> <p>This study supported the organization and bibliographic documentation of rare archival materials from Hakuaisha, one of Japan's oldest orphanages. I led the archiving efforts of foreign correspondence and documents exchanged between Hakuaisha and U.S. agencies in the post-World War II period, contributing to the preservation and accessibility of these historically significant records.</p>

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2018-2021	\$30,879.29	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science C Grant	PI	<p>(CV No.9) Conceptualizing a Macro Model of Older Adult Volunteerism (No. 18K02090)</p> <p>This study aimed to develop a comprehensive model to examine the macro-level factors influencing older adult volunteerism in Japan. While previous research has established the benefits of volunteerism at the individual level, this project focused on understanding how broader societal, institutional, and policy environments impact volunteer engagement among older adults. The research incorporated analyses of national trends, policy frameworks, and organizational practices to identify systemic facilitators and barriers to volunteerism in later life. Findings from this study contributed to two articles titled, <i>Measuring the institutional capacity of older volunteer organizations in Japan: Comparative study with the United States</i> (Chen & Boulos, <i>International Journal of Community Well-being</i>, 2024) and <i>Identification of volunteer organization types by institutional capacity based on cluster analysis: Exploring the landscape of Japanese NPOs and their engagement with older volunteers</i> (Chen, <i>The Journal of Aging and Social Change</i>, 2024).</p>
2015-2017	\$35,439.90	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science C Grant	PI	<p>(CV No.10) Investigating the Organizational Capacity of Older Volunteers' Program (No. 15K03999)</p> <p>This study assessed how Japanese nonprofit organizations, particularly those in the social welfare sector, recruit, support, and retain older adult volunteers. Utilizing a modified survey instrument based on U.S. models, we conducted a nationwide mail survey. Findings revealed that while many organizations clearly defined volunteer roles and actively recruited participants, fewer offered formal recognition or compensation. Compared to U.S. counterparts, Japanese NPOs were less likely to attain the 7 dimensions of organizational capacity. The study's insights contribute to the development of volunteer management practices and policies aimed at enhancing the engagement of older volunteers. I published an article titled, <i>Civic engagement of older adults and its possibilities</i> (Chen, <i>Community Care</i>, 2017, in Japanese) and book chapter titled, <i>Supporting older adults who want to be civically engaged – What should social services do to promote civic engagement among older adults</i> (Chen, <i>Minerva</i>, in Japanese).</p>
2013-2016	\$50,548.88	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science C Grant	Co-I	<p>(CV No.11) History Research on Hakuaissha, Osaka, Japan (No. 25380813)</p> <p>This study focused on the historical development of Hakuaissha, orphanage in Osaka which exists to this day, and its influence on Japan's modern social work practices. I conducted research on foreign social work figures related to Hakuaissha through the archives and historical documents. The research led to my report titled, <i>The United States and Hakuaissha: Focusing on the documents relevant to the Christian Children's Fund (CCF) and Hakuaissha</i> (Chen, 2016, in Japanese).</p>

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2012-2014	\$48,878.31	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science B Grant	Co-I	<p>(CV No.12) The Socialization of Care Labor: A Comparative Study (No. 20331770)</p> <p>This project examined how care labor, particularly eldercare and childcare, has been socially and institutionally structured in different countries, with a focus on Japan and the United States. Through comparative policy analysis and qualitative fieldwork, the study explored how gender norms, welfare regimes, and labor market dynamics influence the valuation, provision, and professionalization of care work. My work has resulted in two published articles and a report titled, <i>A review and analysis of policies, programs, practices for informal caregivers in Sweden and its implications for Japan: A feminist perspective on the welfare state</i> (Chen & Imai, <i>Social Sciences Review</i>, 2014); <i>An examination of A. Sand's report on Reconciliation of paid work and family care in Sweden</i> (Chen, <i>Human Welfare</i>, 2013 in Japanese); and <i>The path to equality ~ History of Sweden</i> (Chen, 2014, in Japanese).</p>
2012-2013	\$154,668.50	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	Co-I	<p>(CV No.13) Challenges of Global Aging Without Borders: Studies on the Recommendations by an Interdisciplinary Network (No. WGA12416)</p> <p>This initiative brought together scholars from diverse disciplines to examine the multifaceted challenges posed by global aging. My contributions included conducting comparative policy analyses, facilitating cross-national dialogues, and co-authoring reports that provided actionable recommendations for policymakers and practitioners addressing the complexities of aging populations worldwide. I published four reports based on the following studies titled: <i>Care for community-based elders: From the perspective of person-environment fit</i> (Chen, 2012, in Japanese) ; <i>Research on care needs of community-based ethnic minority elders</i> (Chen, 2012, in Japanese); <i>Recommendations on older volunteerism in communities</i> (Chen, 2012, in Japanese); and <i>Long-term care in a global aging society</i> (Chen, 2014, in Japanese).</p>
2010-2012	\$47,391.21	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science C Grant	Co-I	<p>(CV No.14) History Research on Hakuaissha, Osaka, Japan (No. 22530654)</p> <p>This historical research traced the origins and development of Hakuaissha, an orphanage in Osaka which exists to this day. Hakuaissha's historical documents miraculously survived the severe air raids during World War II and have been coveted by researchers are important evidence of its role in shaping Japan's civil society and social welfare foundations. The study employed archival analysis and historical methods to uncover the intersections of philanthropy, nationalism, and the emergence of organized social care in Japan.</p>

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2010-2012	\$45,910.23	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science C-Grant	PI	<p>(CV No.15) The Definition, Role and Effect of Productive Aging in Japan (No. 2273048)</p> <p>This project investigated how older adults in Japan define and practice productive aging, with a focus on civic engagement, caregiving, and informal social contributions. Through mixed methods research, the study identified culturally specific forms of engagement often overlooked in Western frameworks and generated evidence to inform more inclusive policies and programs that reflect Japan's demographic and social realities. This study created the foundations of my research in productive aging and civic engagement and led to my earlier articles and book chapters on this topic: <i>Productive aging</i> (Chen, <i>Chinese Social Sciences Press</i>, 2011, in Chinese), <i>Productive aging in Japan</i> (Chen, <i>Routledge</i>, 2012), <i>Societal prospects of older volunteerism</i> (Chen, <i>Aikawa Shobo</i>, 2012, in Japanese), and <i>Productive Aging in Japan: A policy perspective</i> (Chen, <i>Peking University Press</i>, 2012, in Chinese).</p>
2009-2012	\$196,701.54	Grant-in-Aid for Health, Labour, and Welfare Sciences Research (Comprehensive Policy Science Research Project – Policy Science Promotion Research Program), Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	Co-I	<p>(CV No.16) Outcome Evaluation Center for Enhancing the Quality of Welfare and Long-Term Care Services — Implementing the PDCA Cycle from Assessment to Improvement (PI: Nanako Tamiya, University of Tsukuba) (No. 21010401)</p> <p>I contributed to the evaluation framework design and supported the analysis of large-scale national long-term care data. My work helped identify actionable quality indicators and informed recommendations for improving care delivery through continuous quality improvement cycles. I also conducted two studies, <i>Factors related to institutionalization of public long-term care insurance home care service users</i> (2010) and <i>Outcome indicators of community-based care: Factors related to older adults' personal competence, moves, and institutionalization</i> (2011) for the grant reports by conducting statistical modeling and policy analysis to identify key risk factors leading to institutionalization. This research aimed to inform preventive strategies and improve outcomes for older adults in Japan's long-term care system.</p>
2009-2011	\$21,776.26	Nippon Life Insurance “Nissay” Foundation	PI	<p>(CV No.17) Needs assessment of ethnic Chinese older adults in Yokohama Chinatown: Identifying social services and community capacity building</p> <p>This community-based participatory research study identified the social and health service needs of ethnic Chinese older adults in Yokohama Chinatown, Japan's largest ethnic enclave. Using surveys, interviews, and Delphi methods in collaboration with local organizations and the Naka Ward Government, the project highlighted barriers related to language, immigration status, and cultural appropriateness of services. The findings informed the development of culturally responsive programming and fostered cross-sector partnerships aimed at building community capacity and was published as an article titled, <i>Needs assessment of an ethnic Chinese community in Japan</i> (Chen, <i>Social Sciences</i>, 2014).</p>

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2007-2008	\$964,501	Global Center of Excellence Grant, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)	Research Collaborator	(CV No.18) The Study of “Social Research for the Enhancement of Human Well-being” (PI: Kenji Kosaka, Kwansei Gakuin University) In this role, I contributed to the early conceptual development of the project and participated as a discussant of the Center’s research endeavors, which put the University as one of the nation’s top research universities in interdisciplinary research.
2005-2007	N/A	The Martha N. Ozawa Center for Social Policy Studies	Research Fellow	(CV No.19) Why Japanese Adults Work into Old Age? (PI: Martha Ozawa, Washington University in St. Louis) For the project titled, <i>Why Japanese Adults Work into Old Age?</i> , I served as a Research Fellow. My responsibilities included conducting literature reviews, analyzing national survey data on older adult labor force participation in Japan, and contributing to the Center’s discussions on exploring the socioeconomic and policy factors influencing continued employment among older Japanese adults.
2004-2007	\$4,785.07	Health and Labour Sciences Research Grant, Policy Science Promotion Research Program, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	Co-I	(CV No.20) A Policy Evaluation Study of Long-Term Care Insurance Using the Service Utilization Model to Analyze Benefit Records (PI: Nanako Tamiya, University of Tsukuba) (No. 201001017A) This government-funded study analyzed long-term care benefit records to evaluate the effectiveness and equity of Japan’s long-term care insurance policy. As a co-Investigator, I contributed to conceptual framework development, data interpretation, and international dissemination of findings. In the published report for this study, my work <i>Health Care Service Utilization and Caregiving: A Comparative Study of Japan and the United States</i> reported the cross-national literature synthesis and co-developing analytic strategies to examine differences in caregiving patterns and healthcare access among older adults in both countries. I have also published 2 articles: <i>Gender differences in the use of transportation services to community rehabilitation programs</i> (Tamiya et al., <i>BMC Geriatrics</i> , 2009) and <i>Caregivers’ decisions on placement of family members in long-term care facilities in Japan: Analysis of caregiver interviews</i> (Tamiya, et al., <i>Social Behavior & Personality</i> , 2009).
2003-2005	\$100,000	John A. Hartford Foundation Geriatric Faculty Scholars Award	PI	(CV No.21) ‘Aging in Place’ in Assisted Living Facilities: Exploring its Definition, Formation, Implementation, and Accountability in State Policies I served as the Principal Investigator for this policy-focused study, which investigated how "aging in place" is defined and operationalized across state regulations, and the extent to which these policies ensure accountability and align with the needs of older adults in assisted living settings. I was responsible for leading the research design, policy analysis, and dissemination of findings. This study resulted in a report to John A. Hartford Foundation and article titled, <i>Contribution of residential relocation and lifestyle to the structure of health trajectories</i> (Hong and Chen, <i>Journal of Aging and Health</i> , 2009).

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2003	\$50,000	University of Houston	PI	<p>(CV No.22) Caregiver Involvement and Well-being: A Human and Social Capital Theories approach</p> <p>I served as the Principal Investigator for this study which examined how different forms of caregiver involvement including emotional, instrumental, and informational, affect caregiver well-being, using human and social capital frameworks. I led all phases of the research, including conceptualization, data collection, analysis, and dissemination. This study resulted in a poster presented at the annual scientific meeting of the Gerontological Society of America.</p>
2001-2003	N/A	John A. Hartford Foundation & New York Academy of Medicine	Research Assistant	<p>(CV No.23) The Use of Digital Technology to Enhance Case-based Teaching and Learning of Gerontological Social Work Practice (PI: Denise Burnette, Columbia University)</p> <p>This study created four modules that comprise the series focus on core areas of practice with older adults: chronic illness, sexuality, active aging, and depression. Each module includes a videotaped social worker interview with one or more clients, key concepts, a discussion guide and a transcription of the videotape interview, plus references to supplementary educational and resource materials. The modules were distributed to educational institutions by the New York Academy of Medicine. I contributed to transcribing the videotape interviews and creating the discussion guide for <i>Geriatric Practicum Teaching CD-ROMs</i> (Burnette, et al., The New York Academy of Medicine, 2003).</p>
2001-2002	N/A	John A. Hartford Foundation Geriatric Faculty Scholars Award	Research Assistant	<p>(CV No.24) Setting National Research Priorities for Gerontological Social Work: A Delphi Analysis (PI: Denise Burnette, Columbia University)</p> <p>I contributed to literature review, survey development, data collection, and data analysis. This project used the Delphi method to identify consensus among leading scholars and practitioners on the most pressing research priorities in gerontological social work. My work has resulted in two published articles. <i>Research priorities for gerontological social work: Researcher and practitioner perspectives</i> (Burnette et al., <i>Social Work Research</i>, 2005) and <i>Setting priorities for gerontological social work research: A Delphi study</i> (Burnette et al., <i>The Gerontologist</i>, 2003).</p>
2001	N/A	National Institute of Health (NIH)	Research Assistant	<p>(CV No.25) Self-Care in Symptom Management at the End of Life. (PI: Karolyn Siegel, Columbia University)</p> <p>As a research assistant, I was primarily responsible for participant recruitment and data management. My role involved coordinating outreach with healthcare providers and ensuring accurate, confidential handling of sensitive data related to end-of-life care experiences of patients.</p>

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2000-2001	N/A	Asian American Federation of New York	Research Assistant	<p>(CV No.26) Survey on the Quality-of-life, Physical and Mental Well-being of Six Ethnic Groups of Asian American Elders Living in New York City (PI: Ada Mui, Columbia University)</p> <p>This was the first study in the United States examining six different Asian ethnic groups. As a research assistant, I contributed to literature review, formulate research questions, and quantitative analysis across diverse linguistic and cultural groups. My work supported cross-cultural validity in measuring quality of life and mental health indicators, and helped illuminate disparities among underrepresented Asian American older adult populations. My work has resulted in published articles: <i>Cross-cultural assessment of geriatric depression: A review of CES-D and the GDS</i> (Mui et al., <i>Journal of Mental Health and Aging</i>, 2001) and <i>The reliability of Geriatric Depression Scale for use among six elderly Asian immigrants in the U.S.A.</i> (Mui et al., <i>International Psychogeriatrics</i>, 2003).</p>
1999	N/A	John A. Hartford Foundation	Research Assistant	<p>(CV No.27) Geriatric Social Work Training Initiative (PI: Barbara Berkman, Columbia University)</p> <p>As a research assistant, I supported the development and evaluation of specialized gerontological training along the care continuum in aging for MSW students. My role included conducting literature reviews and assisting in curriculum design.</p>
1999	N/A	John A. Hartford Foundation	Research Assistant	<p>(CV No.28) Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training (GITT) (PI: Christine K. Cassel, The Mount Sinai School of Medicine)</p> <p>As a research assistant, I supported the literature review and manuscript writing on collaborative geriatric care initiative which funded 8 programs nationwide. My work was supervised by co-Director of the Mount Sinai GITT, Dr. Judith L. Howe who became the President of the Gerontological Society of America. My work has resulted in published two articles: <i>Interdisciplinary teamwork along the continuum of care</i> (Howe et al., <i>Health and Aging</i>, 2001) and <i>Interdisciplinary teamwork along the continuum of care: Some ethical dilemmas in geriatric care management</i> (Howe et al., <i>Journal of Geriatric Care Management</i> 2001).</p>
1999	N/A	Center for Home Care Policy and Research, Visiting Nurse Service of New York	Research Assistant	<p>(CV No.29) Transitions in Health Care Experienced by Frail Elders; National Benchmark Indicators to Assess Communities for Older Adults (PI: Penny Feldman)</p> <p>As a research assistant, I supported the literature review, data coding, and analysis related to health care transitions and community-level indicators of aging readiness. My role contributed to identifying the best practices and developing benchmarks for age-friendly community health systems.</p>